

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

AREA	FORM NO.
85	W 10

Newton, Mass. M.R.A.
Town Newton (Waban)

Address 1615 Beacon Street

Historic Name Staples-Crafts-Wiswall
Farm

Use: Present dwelling

Original dwelling

DESCRIPTION

Date mid-eighteenth century

Source Genealogical data

Style Georgian/Federal/ Victorian

Architect unknown

Exterior Wall Fabric aluminum-c.1970s

Outbuildings garage

Major Alterations (with dates) 1768-rear
ell added; 1824-Federal re-styling;
1858-Victorianized. 1986-rear addit.
Condition & rear ell demolished.

Good

Moved no Date

Acreage 31.055 sq. ft. *less than*
one acre

Setting Along main thoroughfare at
commercial center of village

Recorded by Deborah Shea

Organization Newton Historical Comm.

Date 5/81; rev. by H.White 3/86

Photo (3"x3" or 3"x5", black and white) Indicate address of property on back of photo. Staple to left side of form.

Sketch Map: Draw map showing property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection(s).
Indicate north

(SEE ATTACHED MAP)

UTM REFERENCE 19.316200.4688300

USGS QUADRANGLE NEWTON, MASS.

SCALE 1:25,000

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The Staples-Crafts-Wiswall farmstead is an important visual link to Waban's eighteenth century agricultural beginnings and has associations with the Staples, Crafts and Wiswall families who were among the area's earliest inhabitants. Therefore the Staples-Crafts-Wiswall Farm meets Criteria A and B of the National Register of Historic Places.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE Describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within the community.

The present house at 1615 Beacon Street was erected on the site of the late seventeenth century house of Deacon John Staples. Though greatly altered, it does incorporate the foundation, structural members and hardware of the Staples dwelling. Moses Craft, who was raised by Deacon Staples and his wife, is believed to have rebuilt the Staples house, replacing it with a more fashionable one, during the mid-eighteenth century. Crafts added an ell in 1769 which he sold to his son, Joseph.

In 1824, the house was owned by William Wiswall, a cousin of the Craft family. Wiswall is believed responsible for the Federal style remodelling of the earlier Georgian house.

In 1858 Wiswall sold the farmstead to David Kinmouth, a Boston merchant. Desiring a stylish summer estate Kinmouth extensively remodelled

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE Explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community.

Deacon John Staples (1658?-1740) was Newton's first school master. In 1688 he came to Newton and had built a house on this site by 1700. His vast 93-acre estate reached from Beacon Street eastward as far as Chestnut Street. Deacon Staples was a politically active citizen and held a number of public offices. For many years he was the Town Clerk and Treasurer, and in 1700 he was appointed Newton's first schoolmaster, for which he was paid 5 shillings per session.

As Staples and his wife were childless, the couple raised several boys from other families. One, Moses Craft, eventually inherited the farmhouse. It was rebuilt by Moses Craft during the mid-eighteenth century and an ell added in 1768. The ell was sold by Moses to his son Joseph, who had agreed to remain and operate the farm. Joseph was the father of 15 children. He and his wife continued to live on the farm long after they were able to maintain it, and parcels were occasionally sold in order to meet expenses. Joseph Crafts died in 1821 at the age of 85, leaving no will and considerable debts owed. The Judge of Probate ordered the property to be auctioned, and Joseph's son, Moses Crafts II, made the winning bid of \$5.50 for the house, barn, and a large tract of land.

In 1824 Moses Craft II sold the property to his cousin William Wiswall II. Wiswall gave the house a Federal period remodelling. He was a prosperous

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Newton's 19th C. Architecture: Newton Highlands & Waban, Historic Newton, Inc. 1982, pp.17-18.

Jackson Homestead files.

Francis Jackson, History of the Early Settlement of Newton 1639-1800, Boston, 1854
Vital Records to 1850, Newton, Mass.

Isabel L. Strong, Waban Early Days 1681-1918, Waban, 1944.
Atlases: 1874, 1886, 1895

Maps: Jackson Map, 1848, 1855.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Newton (Waban)	Form No: W 10
Property Name: Staples-Crafts-Wiswall Farm	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

Architectural Significance:

the house, giving it its present appearance. The gable ends were clipped, and jerkin-head gables were added to the dormers. Several bay windows were added and the porches were extended. The L-plan of the house was squared off by the addition of a new oval dining room to the northeast corner, with an arched bedroom above.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Page three of three		Newton, Mass. MRA
Community:	Form No:	
Newton (Waban)	W 10	
Property Name: Staples-Crafts-Wiswall		
Farm		

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

Historical Significance:

farmer until 1858, when he was unable to maintain the farm any longer, selling it to David Kinmouth, a wealthy Boston drygoods merchant.

Desiring a stylish summer estate, Kinmouth extensively remodelled the house, giving it the present appearance. Kinmouth died in 1865; at that time the property was sold to another Boston merchant, Edward Wyman.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

7/23/86

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic GroupName Newton-MRA
State Middlesex County, MA

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

111. Souther, John, House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melrose Byers 9/4/86

Attest

112. Staples--Crafts--Wiswall Farm

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melrose Byers 9/4/86

Attest

113. Stone, Ebenezer, House

Substantive Review
Determined Eligible

for Keeper

Eligible Talwick Andrus 9/4/86

Attest

114. Stone, Joseph L., House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melrose Byers 9/4/86

Attest

115. Strong's Block

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melrose Byers 9/4/86

Attest

116. Thaxter, Celia, House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melrose Byers 9/4/86

Attest

117. Thayer House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melrose Byers 9/4/86

Attest

118. Ward, Ephraim, House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melrose Byers 9/4/86

Attest

119. Wheat, Samuel, House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melrose Byers 9/4/86

Attest

120. Woodward, John, House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melrose Byers 9/4/86

Attest

86001884

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Staples--Crafts--Wiswall Farm (Newton MRA)
Middlesex County
MASSACHUSETTS

JUL 23 1986

- ☐ resubmission
☐ nomination by person or local government
☐ owner objection
☐ appeal

Entered in the
National Register

Working No. _____
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/3/87
Date Due: 8/2/86 - 9/6/86
Action: ☒ ACCEPT 9-4-86
☐ RETURN
☐ REJECT

Federal Agency: _____

Substantive Review: ☐ sample ☐ request ☐ appeal ☐ NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____
Reviewer _____
Discipline _____
Date _____
_____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: _____ technical corrections cited below
_____ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no

7. Description

Condition

☐ excellent ☐ deteriorated
☐ good ☐ ruins
☐ fair ☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☐ altered

Check one

☐ original site
☐ moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- ☐ summary paragraph
☐ completeness
☐ clarity
☐ alterations/integrity
☐ dates
☐ boundary selection

8. Significance

Period Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

- ☐ summary paragraph
- ☐ completeness
- ☐ clarity
- ☐ applicable criteria
- ☐ justification of areas checked
- ☐ relating significance to the resource
- ☐ context
- ☐ relationship of integrity to significance
- ☐ justification of exception
- ☐ other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

____ national ____ state ____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title

date

13. Other

- ☐ Maps
- ☐ Photographs
- ☐ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____



Staples-- Crafts -- Wiswell Farm

Newton, Mass. MRA

- 1615 Beacon St, Waban -
MR-A-2 (30)



Staples-- Crafts-- Insull Farm

Newton, Mass: MRA

1615 Beacon St, Waban
- MR-A-2 (31) -



City of Newton Assessor's Maps. Sheet 101
 Metric Series. 1979
 Scale: UTM grid line interval = 100 meters (328 feet)

Newton, Mass. M.R.A.
 1615 Beacon Street, Waban
 Staples-Drafts-Miswall House
 53-32-7